

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 6, 9, 11-14, 18-29 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claim 7 is canceled, and claims 11, 18 and 20 are amended. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS ARE ALLOWABLE OVER LEMAIRE

The Office Action rejects claims 6, 7, 9 and 18-22 under 35 USC § 102(b) over Lemaire (U.S. Patent No. 5,417,905). By this Amendment, claim 7 is canceled. Thus, the rejection of claim 7 is moot. With respect to the remaining claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action indicates that Figs. 21a-c of Lemaire disclose a mold as recited in independent claim 18. In Lemaire mold, a first mold half 632 includes a recess 635 and the first mold half is configured to receive a first film 51. The second mold half 631 is configured to receive a second film 50. A gate on the second mold half 631 is designed to insert an injection molding resin between the two mold halves. A protrusion formed around the gate is intended to push the first film 51 against the first mold half 632. In the embodiment shown in Figs. 21a-c, a recess 637 is formed in the first mold half 632, and the recess 637 receives the first film 51. Thus, in the embodiment shown in Fig. 21b, the protrusion surrounding the injection gate traps the first film 51 against the recess 637 in the first mold half. In the Lemaire mold, a resin is then injected through the gate to push the first film 51 into the recess 635, as shown in Fig. 21c.

Amended claim 18 now recites that the first and second molds each have at least one recess, and that the two recesses form a mold cavity. Claim 18 also recites that at least one projection is formed on the inner surface of the second mold and at least one corresponding

recess is formed on the inner surface of the first mold such that the projection is configured to push a portion of the first film on the first mold into the corresponding recess so as to form a convex portion on the first film configured to receive a button.

The embodiment of Lemaire shown in Figures 21a-21c lacks recesses on the first and second molds that are configured to make a mold cavity. In the Lemaire mold, the recess on the second mold 631 is configured to receive a second film 50, not to make a mold cavity with a corresponding recess on the first mold. In addition, there are no projections on the second mold 631 of Lemaire that would push the first film 51 into a corresponding recess on the first mold 632 so as to form a convex portion on the first film for a button. For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 18 is allowable over Lemaire. Claims 6, 9 and 19-22 depend from claim 18 and are allowable at least for the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6, 9 and 18-22 over Lemaire is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS ARE ALLOWABLE OVER ONO

The Office Action rejects claims 18 and 21-24 under 35 USC § 102(b) over Ono (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0005791). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action refers to the mold arrangement shown in Fig. 9 of Ono. As shown therein, a cavity plate 17 includes a plurality of recesses which are intended to receive a resin film 7. Ono discloses that a “first core plate” (not shown in the Ono reference) would be used to apply pressure to the resin film 7 to push it into the cavities on the cavity plate 17 so that it assumes the shape shown in Fig. 9. Presumably, the first core plate would have a shape that

corresponds to the shape of the cavities formed on the first cavity plate. The first core plate is then removed.

A “second core plate” 18 is then positioned beneath the film. This second core plate 18 does not have a shape that corresponds to the cavity plate 17. Instead, the second core plate is shaped such that molding cavities are formed between the second core plate 18 and the resin film 7, which has been pressed into the cavities on the cavity plate 17. A molding resin is then injected through gates 12 in the second core plate 18 so that the molding resin fills the molding cavities between the second core plate 18 and the resin film 7. See the specification at paragraph 40.

If one assumes that the cavity plate 17 comprises the claimed first mold recited in claim 18, then the second core plate 18 would correspond to the claimed second mold. However, in the Ono mold, there are no projections formed on the inner surface of the second core plate 18 (corresponding to the claimed second mold) which are configured to push portions of a film on the inner surface of the cavity plate 17 into corresponding recesses on the cavity plate 17 so as to form a convex portion on the first film configured to receive a button. For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 18 is allowable. Claims 21-24 depend from claim 18 and are allowable for at least for the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 18 and 21-24 is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS ARE ALLOWABLE OVER OISHI

The Office Action rejects claims 11-14 and 25-29 under 35 USC § 102(b) over Oishi (U.S. Patent No. 4,752,059). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Oishi discloses a mold as shown in Figs. 1, 4 and 5. In this mold, a first mold half 2 includes recesses, and the first mold 2 is configured to receive a film 10. A second mold 1 includes a plurality of projections 35/36 or 5A/6A which are configured to press the film 10 into the recesses on the first mold 2. A gate 1A in the second mold 1 allows a molding resin to be injected into a cavity between the first mold 2 and the second mold 1.

Claim 25 recites an injection mold which includes a first mold configured to receive a first film, and a second mold configured to receive a second film.

Assuming the right side of the mold 1 in Oishi corresponds to the claimed second mold, this mold half is not configured to receive a second film on its inner surface. Likewise, the projections 35/36 on the Oishi mold are not configured to pass through a second film on the inner surface of the second mold 1. For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 25 is allowable over Oishi.

Claims 11, 13, 14 and 26-29 depend from claim 25 and are allowable for at least the same reasons, and for the additional features that they recite. In particular, Applicants note that Oishi fails to disclose or suggest the features recited in claims 12 and 13 relating to the protrusion surrounding a gate or the features recited in claims 27 and 28 relating to the formation of a convex portion in the first film.

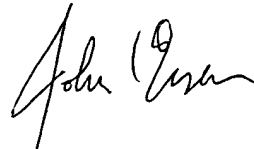
In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 11, 13, 14 and 25-29 over Oishi is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

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